

A woman with short brown hair and a red headband stands in a workshop, holding a lit torch. She is wearing a denim apron over a light-colored shirt and a red bandana. The background shows various workshop equipment and tools.

SCHOOL OF ARTS

DEGREE AND DIPLOMA COURSES

The School of Arts offers a dynamic set of practical courses, at every level, from one-day short courses to full-time Diplomas, Degrees and Master's programmes. Subjects range from Creative Writing to Musical Instrument Making from Fine Art to Furniture, from Clock Making to our new Foundation Degree in Books and Bindings.

Our courses put equal emphasis on the hands-on teaching of traditional and contemporary techniques, processes and skills, alongside the development of historical, conceptual and professional practices. Our students also benefit from the opportunity to study in a working historic house and access its important collections and archives.

We are a relatively small learning community with opportunities to work individually or collaboratively, but most of all our scale means we can support your individuality, enabling you to develop your passion and fulfil your potential within a community of like-minded people.

On our full-time courses, you will have access to relevant studios and workshops as well as your own studio space and you will be taught by tutors who are active artists, authors and makers, supported by the widest range of visiting lecturers and highly specialist short course programmes.



TIM BOLTON MA RCA, FRSA
HEAD OF SCHOOL OF ARTS

WHY WEST DEAN?

Leading reputation

Workshops open 12 hours a day

Bursaries and scholarships

Expert tutors

Large studios

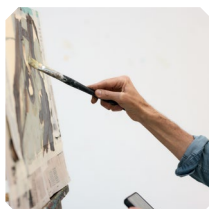
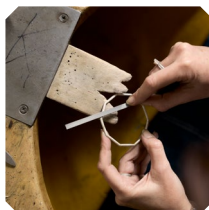
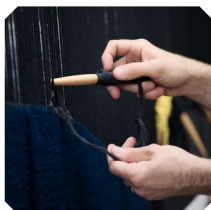
Individual workbenches

Low student: tutor ratio

600 creative short courses

Unique historic house

Beautiful location



FOUNDATION DEGREE ARTS

Two years, full-time

Open to

School leavers, career changers, or those with an interest in crafts and making. We encourage applications from those with evidence of prior learning with an appropriate portfolio of work.

About

Develop the craft skills and knowledge to establish yourself as a creative thinker, problem solver and maker. Learn from industry-leading craftspeople, undertake practical, hands-on projects, and develop your understanding of the importance of heritage crafts skills to create contemporary and traditional objects, whether specialising in furniture, musical instruments, clocks, books and bindings, metalwork or ceramics.

Careers

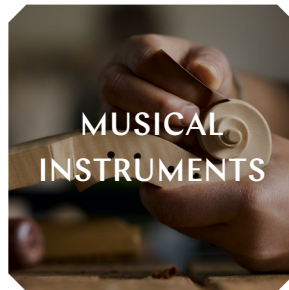
After completing their studies, graduates go on to establish their own craft businesses, working in the trade, or progress on to the BA Craft Practices at West Dean.



“During my two years at West Dean studying Furniture, I dedicated most of my time starting my company and preparing to work for myself after graduation.”

HARRY T MORRIS
FDA FURNITURE

Choose from the following subjects:



For full course details, fees and entry requirements,
please visit the course pages on our website at
westdean.ac.uk

ARTISTS,
ADVANCE.



FINE
ART
COURSES

MFA (Master of Fine Art)

Two years, full-time

Open to

Those with relevant work experience in the arts, an honours degree or equivalent qualification in Fine Art or a related discipline.

MFA

The MFA is designed to further advance students' in practical, theoretical and professional domains, with an emphasis on specialist studio practice.

MFA Blended delivery

The same as our MFA but with greater flexibility to study around your existing commitments. Students attend a series of ten one-week, on-site study blocks, in combination with access to online resources.

MFA Craft Practices

Our MFA Craft Practices focuses on making techniques, materials, and processes. It combines the skills and knowledge of traditional crafts with contemporary design principles and artistic expression.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA

One year, full-time

Open to

Those with a qualification equivalent to a second year of successful undergraduate study e.g. HND, DipHE, a relevant Foundation Degree in Fine Art or a related subject.

About

The programme gives graduates of other disciplines the opportunity to transfer existing skills to the study of Fine Arts.

Careers and progression

Graduates go on to further study, undertake residencies, gain representation from galleries, set up their own studios, and exhibit their work worldwide.

BA (HONS) ART AND CONTEMPORARY CRAFT: MATERIALS, MAKING AND PLACE

Six years, part-time

Open to

Those with a Level 3 qualification, including Foundation Diploma in Art and Design.

About

Our BA in Art and Contemporary Craft is an innovative programme built around the needs of creators; for those who are ambitious about developing their studio practice, want to maintain a sustained engagement with an artistic community but whose life and work demands flexibility. You will study at the intersection of fine art and contemporary craft, exploring interdisciplinary approaches in intensive blocks that are scheduled to suit you.

FDAD

Ten short courses over two years, part-time

Open to

Those with an existing A-level or National Diploma wanting to do an Art and Design related degree.

About

Develop your creativity and skills within the broad field of art and craft and achieve your diploma at a pace to suit you, with tuition from a myriad of talented artists. Create a rich and varied portfolio of work, reflecting your talents and areas of interest.

**“I gained technical skills,
but I also developed
confidence to work
differently and take
my own path.”**

SUE COOPER
FOUNDATION DIPLOMA
IN ART AND DESIGN

ONLINE FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE IN ART AND DESIGN

One year, part-time

Open to

Those wanting to learn online and independently to develop art and design skills.

About

This flexible foundation programme is taught online through a mix of self-directed study, live study days and a student community hub. Designed to fit around your day-to-day commitments, the programme will help you develop your competence and confidence in the core skills in art and design.

ONLINE FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN ART AND DESIGN

One year, part-time

Open to

Those wanting to progress from the Online Foundation Certificate in Art and Design whilst still learning online.

About

This flexible programme completes foundation studies for students at level 4. Supported by an online community of students and tutors, you will improve your ability and confidence in core skills and begin to specialise.

MAKE
CREATIVITY
COUNT.



CREATIVE
WRITING

GRADUATE DIPLOMA CREATIVE WRITING

Two year, part-time

Open to

Those with a qualification equivalent to a second year of successful undergraduate study e.g. HND, DipHE.

About

Designed for aspiring writers who want to develop their skills and explore different creative forms. You will study fiction, creative non-fiction (with particular emphasis on essay, memoir, journaling) and poetics.

MA CREATIVE WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Two year, part-time

Open to

For those wanting to complete the first draft of a novel, keen to develop writing and research skills and learn about the publishing process.

About

This programme is for you if you are already a committed writer and keen to learn from professional authors and industry experts about the publishing process and the role of the author in today's publishing environment.

MFA CREATIVE WRITING & PUBLISHING

One year, part-time

Open to

Those who have an MA in Creative Writing & Publishing from West Dean or a portfolio showing evidence of current practical work and engagement with current debates in the publishing industry.

About

Designed to follow on from our MA in Creative Writing and Publishing this course provides a high-level pathway for emerging writers who wish to complete work-in-progress to a publishable standard.

Careers

Graduates go on to lead successful careers as published authors.

MAKING,
MADE
POSSIBLE.



FOUNDATION
DIPLOMAS

AWARDED BY WEST DEAN COLLEGE

TAPESTRY WEAVING

Two year, part-time

Open to

Aimed at tapestry weavers who have completed a beginners' course at West Dean or elsewhere.

About

This course offers a broad insight into the technical and creative techniques of weaving, necessary for developing skills and building your own creative language. Each unit will be based in the unique environment of West Dean Tapestry Studio, one of the UK's only professional tapestry studios specialising in contemporary design and weaving using traditional techniques.

CERAMICS

Two year, part-time

Open to

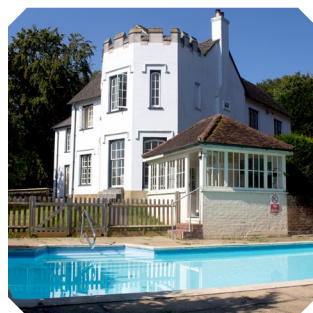
Suitable for potters who have had some experience working with clay, and are looking to develop confidence.

About

This programme offers a comprehensive understanding of the material as well as teaching you a variety of clay techniques from hand-building to throwing, decorating and glazing work. Develop your skills and build up your own creative language whilst being supported to create work based around your own research and interests.

LOCATION

The West Dean campus is based between Chichester and Midhurst, in the beautiful South Downs. Less than half an hour from beaches and coastline, there is also easy access to London and Brighton. Chichester and Midhurst are known for their thriving arts scene with independent shops, cafes and restaurants.



CAMPUS LIFE

Campus life is relaxed and peaceful and students have access to 100 acres of award-winning gardens. The outdoor swimming pool and tennis courts are open in the summer and there are a variety of activities and clubs. Students can also access over 600 creative short courses.



ACCOMMODATION

On-campus accommodation includes purpose-built student lodgings and refurbished houses all within five-minutes walk of the College. You can choose full board or self-catering utilising fully equipped shared student kitchens.



“The space in the studios at West Dean and the opportunity to do such large-scale work is unique. There’s amazing space here – it blows my mind!”

EMMA RIMER
GRADUATE DIPLOMA STUDENT

“The level of learning is higher here... we’re making in an authentic way, using hand tools, learning about materials, looking at original instruments and building a wide knowledge. Our tutor is a professional, well-known instrument maker who teaches us methods to maximise productivity, alongside high level skills.”

FONS VOGEL
FDA MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

“The flexible structure of the FDAD course means that I have been able to adjust the direction of my learning experiences as my areas of interest have become clearer.”

BILLY CAVE
FDAD STUDENT

“There were three main reasons I chose West Dean:

- 1 Small class sizes – offering a high degree of personal tuition.**
- 2 Unparalleled access to facilities including the forge, hot work and chemicals area**
- 3 The location – it is unique!”**

MARY
FDA METALS



FULL PARTNER OF



UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

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WEST  DEAN

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at westdean.ac.uk

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