

BA (HONS) CERAMIC DESIGN



BA (Hons) Ceramic Design

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	Central Saint Martins
School	S School
Programme	CSM Product, Ceramic and Industrial Design (L032)
Course AOS Code	CSMBACERF01
FHEQ Level	Level 6 Degree
Course Credits	360
Mode	Full Time
Method	Face to Face
Duration of Course	3 years
Valid From	2025/26
Collaboration	N/A
UAL Subject Classification	3D Design and Product Design
PSRB	N/A
Work placement offered	Yes
Course Entry Requirements	<p>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</p> <p>One or a combination of the following accepted full level 3 qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass at Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (Level 3 or 4) and 1 A Level at Grade C or above • 2 A Levels at grade C or above (preferred subjects include Art, Art and Design, or Design and

	<p>Technology)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merit, Pass, Pass (MPP) at BTEC Extended Diploma (preferred subjects include Art, Art and Design, or Design and Technology) • Pass at UAL Extended Diploma • Access to Higher Education Diploma (preferred subjects include Art, Art and Design, or Design and Technology) • Equivalent EU/International qualifications, such as International Baccalaureate Diploma (24 points) <p>And three GCSE passes at grade 4 or above (grade A*-C).</p> <p>Entry to this course will also be determined by assessment of your portfolio. A high proportion of successful applicants complete a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design.</p> <p>APEL - Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</p> <p>Exceptionally applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related academic or work experience • The quality of the personal statement • A strong academic or other professional reference <p>OR a combination of these factors.</p> <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p>English language requirements</p> <p>IELTS level 6.0 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our main English language requirements webpage).</p>
--	---

Selection Criteria	<p>We select applicants who can demonstrate current ability and potential to:</p> <p>Work imaginatively and creatively in 2D and 3D visual media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with experimentation and invention • Show imagination and ambition in proposals for your work • Take informed risks. <p>Demonstrate a range of skills and technical abilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through your portfolio, demonstrate a range of approaches to design development, originated from personal experience of visual research and progressed through logical stages to a finished design solution • Evidence handling a material or medium (ideally clay) with sensitivity to its qualities • Demonstrate engagement and improvement in recently learned technical skill. <p>Provide evidence of intellectual enquiry within your work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence an ability to evaluate your achievements critically. <p>Demonstrate cultural awareness and/or contextual framework of your work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence an interest in contemporary art and design • Identify social and/or cultural influences on your work. <p>Articulate and communicate intentions clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss your work in group situations • Present your work appropriately and effectively. <p>Demonstrate commitment and motivation in relation to the subject and the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop your own ideas and address project briefs
---------------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show willingness to collaborate • Show initiative. <p>What we are looking for</p> <p>We are seeking people who are open to new ideas, informed risk taking and challenge, and who are willing to get involved in the different disciplines and activities of ceramic design practice.</p>
--	---

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Awards	Credits
Certificate of Higher Education (Exit Only)	120

Year 2

Awards	Credits
Diploma of Higher Education (Exit Only)	240

Year 3

Awards	Credits
Bachelor of Arts	360

Scheduled Learning Split by Level

Level 4	30%
Level 5	15%
Level 6	24%
Total Scheduled Learning Split	21%

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	To provide a supportive learning environment in which you can become an independent, self-aware learner.
Aim	To equip you with the subject knowledge and understanding, and intellectual, academic, practical and transferable skills necessary to practice in and contribute to ceramic design and the creative industries.
Aim	To produce responsible, self-reliant graduates able to demonstrate critical analysis and self-reflection in their contributions to society at large.
Outcome	A detailed understanding and awareness of current developments in ceramic design and the networks within which it operates.
Outcome	The ability to initiate, develop and sustain ideas, analyse and critically evaluate information, demonstrate visual and aesthetic awareness, solve problems and make decisions within set and self-initiated projects.
Outcome	The ability to present ideas and resolved outcomes through the informed selection and use of materials, techniques and processes.
Outcome	The ability to communicate effectively with specialist and non-specialist audiences using visual, verbal and physical means.
Outcome	The ability to work independently and collaboratively to initiate, manage and conclude projects within set timescales.
Outcome	The ability to critically evaluate the social, cultural and professional contexts within which ceramic design operates.

	Distinctive Features
1	Subject custodians: BA Ceramic Design is one of only two single honours ceramics courses in the country and the only one with an emphasis on design as a creative process. It offers an in-depth exploration of ceramics and a wider learning of the subject. The role of subject custodian enables the course to reappraise the subject and propose new areas of practice, recognising emerging discourse and evolving disciplines.
2	Design responsibility: The course has long-recognised the need for a responsible practice, addressing ethical and sustainable studio issues to create a viable and resonant ceramics education. The course community commits to the principles of building an ethical and sustainable studio practice by making these issues founding principles of all units undertaken and assessable through dedicated learning outcomes and adopting course level initiatives around waste material, fuel costs and carbon offsetting.
3	Research through design collaboration: The course encourages the development of individual and shared networks that grow a breadth of opportunities. Collaboration with the ceramics community and wider creative industries is at the heart of what we do within the course, contributing to knowledge exchange and research within curriculum. These offer a “real world” context, providing the adrenalin and boundaries which are very difficult to replicate in an educational environment.
4	Frames of practice: We constantly question and reappraise the subject, identifying resonant contemporary areas of practice which provoke the creative curriculum. These frames of practice are; Connoisseurship: ceramics as highly functional, decorative, luxury and bespoke; Meaningful Engagement: ceramic practice as a currency for social engagement with diverse communities; Future Craft: Hybrid processes utilising craft and digital fabrication methods; Embodied Practice: the evolving sense of craftsmanship and authority over the material.

Course Detail

BA Ceramic Design embraces and challenges the versatility of clay as a creative and functional material. On this course, teaching focuses on design through making and haptic engagement with the material. You will apply clay to a diverse range of contexts and design opportunities. We define design as the methodology and strategy through which we teach – a productive enquiry founded in a curiosity for the application of clay in a range of creative or challenging contexts towards a breadth of conceptual responses and a wide range of possible creative applications. These range from the handmade bespoke object to public sculpture, performance, installation and designs for industrial production. Students may define their practice through a range of lenses from designer, maker, craftsperson through to artist.

On the course, the studio and workshop culture are important. The course team work to foster a vibrant designer-maker-community. You will benefit from excellent workshop facilities as well as the support of specialist technicians. You will learn both traditional hand skills and digital production skills. This includes throwing, modelling, casting, moulding, hand building, decoration, glazing, drawing, printing and firing. As well as hands-on techniques, the course will also provide you with an intellectual framework. You will examine the potential of ceramics to progress into other visual languages, critical discourses and a wide range of professional opportunities.

BA Ceramic Design aims to send its students out into the world as confident and critically aware designers, artists and makers. Teaching is delivered in relation to professional models of practice. Through self-initiated projects, you will question, articulate and present your ideas. The course also has links with a range of practitioners and external organisations. This provides opportunities for collaborative projects. Previously, these have included the British Museum, Busaba Eathai, Ella Doran, Joseph, National Memorial Arboretum, NIO, Marks & Spencer, The Conran Shop, Traidcraft, Vista Alegre and Wedgwood.

We are committed to developing ethical ceramic design practices. To achieve this, we are working to embed UAL's Principles for Climate, Social and Racial Justice into the course.

Course Units

BA Ceramic Design is designed to help your creative and professional development. You will undertake a series of creative projects which engage with professional communities across the breadth of the subject – from art, through craft and into design. You will develop your own visual language, while also learning transferable skills to suit a variety of work environments.

Students explore their practice through hands-on engagement with skills and processes within the subject of ceramics. Stage 1 focuses on craft and skill; it's process-rich and built on the acquisition of a multitude of core skills that act as a toolkit for future practice. In Stage 2, you will apply these skills within broader contexts and develop a conceptual framework in which to apply these skills. In Stage 3, you will begin to inhabit a specialist practice and become a confident, critical practitioner. Over time students start to bring other materials into their studio practice or seek opportunities within other disciplines. This reflects a growing self-awareness and confidence in the student designers.

The course promotes student-centred experiential learning, enabling you to identify and expand on your own strengths, through active reflection and an immersive iterative making process.

Across the three stages of BA Ceramic Design, studio practice is the main component of the course. Supporting studies include specialist technical teaching; contextual studies; and personal and professional development. These elements provide a critical understanding, so you can explore and develop your work with the ceramic medium.

Stage 1

Unit 1: Capacity to Learn: Introduction to Study in Ceramic Design Contexts

Unit 2: Skilling Up

Unit 3: The Production of Art: Capacity To Do

Unit 4: Creative Unions

Stage 1 focuses on developing an awareness of material. Regardless of prior ceramics knowledge, you will be introduced to a broad spectrum of skills and processes focusing on the making experience and the intrinsic qualities of objects and material.

Stage 2

Unit 5: The Art of Manufacturing

Unit 6: Agency to Change

Unit 7: Atelier Me

Unit 8: Articulating Ceramic Futures

In Stage 2, you will undertake a series of workshop-based activities which engage with the subject and its relationship to the wider creative fields. You will be introduced to how to design in response to specific briefs and how to design using a reflective and concept based approach.

Stage 3

Unit 9: Practice in Context

Unit 10: Making It Real

In Stage 3, you will grow your own intellectual practice, developing your personal agenda and research approach. You will develop a professional persona: the crafts person, designer-maker, artist, or designer for production, supported by a relevant portfolio of work.

Optional Diploma Year

Industry DIPS

This optional diploma can be taken between years 2 and 3. With support from your tutors, you will undertake an industry placement for a minimum of 100 days/20 weeks. As well as developing industry skills, you will gain an additional qualification upon successful completion.

CCI Creative Computing

Between years 2 and 3, you can undertake the year-long Diploma in Creative Computing. This will develop your skills in creative computing alongside your degree. After successfully completing the diploma and your undergraduate degree, you will graduate with an enhanced degree: BA (Hons) Ceramic Design (with Creative Computing).

CCI Apple Diploma

Between years 2 and 3, you can undertake the year-long Diploma in Apple Development. This will give you an opportunity to become an accredited Apple developer alongside your degree. After successfully completing the diploma and your undergraduate degree, you will graduate with an enhanced degree: BA (Hons)

Ceramic Design (with Apple Development).

Mode of Study

BA Ceramic Design runs for 90 weeks in full-time mode. It is divided into three stages over three academic years. Each stage lasts 30 weeks. You will be expected to commit 40 hours per week to study, which includes teaching time and independent study.

CSM Academic Support is delivered by a team of academics and practitioners working alongside your course to help you progress and achieve your maximum potential as a student. Academic Support can help you to develop your skills in different areas, including critical thinking, research and writing, time management, presentations and working independently and collaboratively. These may be offered as part of your timetabled classes or as bookable tutorials and workshops.

Credit and award requirements

The course is credit-rated at 360 credits, with 120 credits at each stage (level).

On successfully completing the course, you will gain a Bachelor of Arts with Honours (BA Hons degree).

Under the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications the stages for a BA are: Stage 1 (Level 4), Stage 2 (Level 5) and Stage 3 (Level 6). In order to progress to the next stage, all units of the preceding stage must normally be passed: 120 credits must be achieved in each stage. The classification of the award will be derived from the marks of units in Stages 2 and 3 or only Stage 3, using a dual algorithm.

If you are unable to continue on the course, a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) will normally be offered following the successful completion of Level 4 (or 120 credits), or a Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE) following the successful completion of Level 5 (or 240 credits).

Learning and Teaching Methods

The learning and teaching methods devised for this course include:

- Designing through doing
- Studio practice
- Applied technology
- Skill demonstrations
- Facilitated workshops
- Workshop-based teaching
- Lectures
- Seminars
- Group and peer to peer learning
- Professional practice presentations
- Industry engagement
- Interviews
- Research practice
- Creative Futures Blog

Assessment Methods

- Coursework
- Portfolios
- Supporting materials
- Essay
- Presentations
- Collection of works
- Research reports
- Projects

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- FHEQ Level Descriptors (Levels 4, 5 and 6)
- External industry advice and guidance

Course Diagram

BA (Hons) Ceramic Design – PLEASE NOTE DUE TO VACATION DATES, SPECIFIC DELIVERY WEEKS MAY CHANGE.

S=summative assessment

LEVEL 4 – Stage 1																															
BLOCK 1															BLOCK 2																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Unit 1: Capacity to Learn: Introduction to Study in Ceramic Design Contexts (20 credits)				S	Unit 2: Skilling Up (40 credits)									S	Unit 3: The Production of Art (40 credits)									S	Unit 4: Creative Unions (20 credits)						S
LEVEL 5 – Stage 2																															
BLOCK 1															BLOCK 2																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Unit 5: The Art of Manufacturing (40 credits)										Unit 6: Agency Sto Change (20 credits)				S	Unit 7: Atelier Me (40 credits)														S		
															Unit 8: Articulating Ceramic Futures (20 credits)														S		
OPTIONAL DIPLOMA YEAR – LEVEL 5																															
LEVEL 6 – Stage 3																															
BLOCK 1															BLOCK 2																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Unit 9: Practice in Context (60 credits)														S	Unit 10: Making It Real (60 credits)														S		

The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable