Physical Portfolio

Widening Participation
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Why do I need one?

• Admissions staff look at your e-folio first
• The e-folio should demonstrate a range of your abilities
• If you are called for interview, you need to bring your full portfolio and all of your sketchbooks
• The work you present and how you talk about it will allow staff to make an informed decision about your application
Is there a specific format?

- No – how you choose present your work is a decision personal to you
- Often portfolios submitted to GSA are A1 or A2 in size
- Many applicants use Mounting Board or thick card to display their work
- Many applicants submit between 15 and 25 sheets of Mounting Board
- You should include all of your sketchbooks
- Many applicants will have 3+ full sketchbooks
What should it contain?

- All of the work you’ve been making recently
- You can include some work from your SQA qualifications, but choose carefully!
- Most of the work should be work you have made outside of secondary school
- Your portfolio needs to demonstrate how creative you can be
- It also needs to evidence that you can work comfortably with concepts and ideas and are able to communicate ideas in the work that you make.
- If you’ve been going to Life Drawing classes, include some of your most interesting drawings.
Respect your work

• Your work should be **well looked after**.
• If you have any crumpled or curled drawings **iron them**.
• If you have photographs you want to include, make sure they are good quality.
• Think about which works you want to mount next to each other.
• Think about the running order of the mounted sheets – your portfolio should tell a story and have an order to it.
• Avoid sticking your images down with spray glue or double sided tape.
• Blue tack or masking tape is best to use to protect your work.
Need a hand?

If you’re from a target school and have applied to a course at College or University course (GSA or elsewhere!) that requires a portfolio submission, you can make an appointment to come in and get some advice from our Widening Participation team.

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