Folios
Your pocket guide of inspiration and handy tips
Did you know...

Most tertiary education providers require you to submit a folio of your work if you are applying to study a creative arts or design course?

It is a good idea to start thinking about this early to allow time to develop a folio of work that you can use as part of your university submission. This guide is designed to help you put together your folio with handy tips from our creative arts team.

Prepare

Research your interest areas. Search far and wide. Explore galleries and museums, books or magazines, watch films and live performances, take photos or discover online platforms.

What is a folio?

A folio is a collection of your personal work. It gives an insight into your creative thinking processes and the meaning behind your work. It showcases your passions, technical skills and diversity as an artist.
Show
Develop your ideas and showcase your curiosity. Show the creative process, ask questions about your work and collaborate with others.

Find
Investigate what inspires you. Select ideas, materials and techniques and source good examples of your favourite artists, photographers or designers.

What are universities looking for?
Your folio should be a true reflection of you and the journey you have taken to get to this point. Explain the meaning behind your work to provide purpose and context. Your folio doesn’t need to contain masterpieces, but reveal a process that reflects imagination, curiosity and passion.

Jot down some ideas


Include

Include work in your folio that excites and inspires you. Your folio should be a true reflection of you and the journey you have taken to get to this point.

What artforms interest you?
E.g. hand drawings, computer aided drawings, paintings, graphic design, photographs, digital images, models, sculptures, video, scripting, short stories, 2D and 3D Flash animation.

Communicate

Explain the meaning behind your work to provide purpose and context. Your folio doesn’t need to contain masterpieces, but reveal a process that reflects imagination, curiosity and passion.

How do you communicate your creative process?

Deirdre Carmichael
Objects of the Anthropocene
2018
Medium: oil on canvas
Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts) graduate,
Deakin University

Calvin Irons
The Courier From Kibou Town 3
2018
Bachelor of Design (3D Animation) graduate,
Deakin University
Handy tips

What do I need to include in my folio submission?

Write a personal statement (250 words) detailing you, your influences, experience, motivation to study and an explanation of your understanding of the practices within your chosen field (i.e. visual arts). For example:

'I love watching the film ‘Selma’ because of the art direction so this has influenced my desire to take photographs that are set ups using make-up and costumes. I love the photos of Tracey Moffatt because of the way she draws in personal narratives and storytelling through her work.'

Upload between six to eight examples (following the online instructions) of your work. Consider examples of the following for each course:

**Bachelor of Creative Arts (Dance)**
Visual material (video or still images) demonstrating any form of movement.

**Bachelor of Creative Arts (Photography)**
Images that best represent you as a creative image-maker. They can be a series concentrating on a particular theme or concept, or individual images.

**Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts)**
Images of artwork that showcase you as a creative maker. The images can be a series or separate works. They can be images of paintings, drawings, installations, video, 2D and/or 3D work.

**Bachelor of Design (3D Animation)**
Examples of your design work, including, but not limited to, character generation, digital illustration, general drawing, motion design, 3D form.

**Bachelor of Design (Digital Technologies)**
Examples of your design work, including, but not limited to, digital technology product design, application design, user interface design, user experience design, mobile app design, interactive experience design, VR/AR/game design, digital illustration, web design, motion design, 3D form.

**Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication)**
Examples of your design work, including, but not limited to, logo design, text, layout, illustration, photography, 3D form.

These don’t need to be masterpieces but reveal a process that reflects imagination, curiosity and passion. These works can be in-progress or work you have done in the past. A selection committee, who are excited to see what drives and inspires you, will view your work.

What happens after I submit the folio?

You will receive a confirmation email with a summary of what you have submitted. Your folio will be reviewed by our selection committee. Formal advice of an offer will be received through VTAC.

Is submitting a portfolio the only entry requirement?

No. Applicants must also satisfy tertiary entrance requirements*

What is an advisory letter?

An advisory letter provides an indication of whether you have met the portfolio requirements. This means that Deakin University is prepared to make you an offer for this course provided that you also satisfy tertiary entrance requirements*.

Do I need to attend an interview?

No interview is required.

Can I submit my folio for multiple courses?

If you are applying for more than one course, you will need to submit a folio and submission statement for each course.

How do I submit my folio?

**Step 1**
Visit the portfolio applications page at deakin.edu.au/portfolio-applications

**Step 2**
Select the course you are interested in

**Step 3**
Read the submission instructions and deadlines carefully

**Step 4**
Start your folio entry

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*A portfolio submission in itself does not constitute an application for a Deakin University program. Applications for Deakin programs must be made via VTAC (vtac.edu.au) or Deakin’s applicant portal (deakin.edu.au/apply) depending on your circumstances. For international applicants, applications can be made through Deakin International (deakin.edu.au/international-students). Applicants must also meet the minimum entrance requirements for the relevant course for admission to Deakin University. For more information on the Admission Criteria and Selection Policy visit policy.deakin.edu.au/view.

Anjella Roessler  
Post Earning Bachelor of Creative Arts (Photography) graduate, Deakin University
‘My course provided a safe, non-judgmental, compelling and supportive space in which I could return to dancing. I was also able to pursue my passion for photography by studying the subject as an elective. My studies have allowed me to take advantage of fantastic travel opportunities, which wouldn’t have been possible without the support of Deakin.’

Michaela Ottone
Bachelor Creative Arts (Dance)
Bachelor Creative Arts (Honours) Dance
Deakin University
Cover artwork:
Jake Jalovec
Best Alien Plant Shot
2018
Bachelor of Creative Arts (Photography) student

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