

Ravensbourne
University London



**Getting your Portfolio
ready for interview**

What are we looking for?

We are looking to see whether you...

- can draw
- can work in a variety of media, and using different methods
- can have a good idea and develop it to a final concept
- have a connection and enthusiasm for your work
- have gone beyond the briefs and produced your own work
- are going to exhibitions, looking at related creative practice

How can I show I can draw?

- include a variety of drawings, for example life drawing, quick sketches, detailed drawings, technical drawings related to your subject.
- present your drawings in a number of formats, for example on sheets and sketchbooks
- produce drawings in different scales

How can I show a variety of method and media?

- include a variety of projects/work that show different skills, for example photography, 3D work, drawings, textile samples, final models (photographs of)
- we are a digital college, we like to see you have a basic understanding and interest in digital technology
- we want people who can work in a variety of methods and media
- being brilliant at one thing, but having nothing else in your folder will work against you at interview

How do I show I can develop an idea?

sketchbooks!
sketchbooks!
sketchbooks!

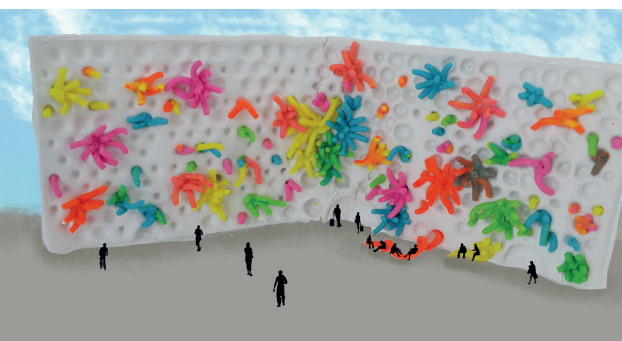
We will be looking to see whether you can take a concept from research through to final product, as a rough guide we would expect to see:

- research (from real life, your own photographs, notes, quick sketches, images from internet, photocopies from books, postcards etc.)
- initial sketches, tracings, morphing
- development through drawing, digital experimentation
- changes in scale, quality of work, introduction of colour, fabrication
- photographing of progress, i.e. photos of work developed on the stand etc.
- resolution: prototypes, samples, mock-ups, models
- final pieces/photographs of final pieces
- reference to your target market/audience

How can I show I am enthusiastic about my work?

Enthusiasm will be obvious if it exists but presentation will convince further. Things to look at:

- your name on the front and on each piece of work including sketchbooks
- keep to a format i.e. all landscape or all portrait
- make sure the sheets or work are clean, no crisp packets or smudged marks
- no loose sheets in book... they fall out.
- if a sketchbook is nearly empty don't bring it to interview. Instead cut out the work and make a smaller book





Fashion lookbooks at the Degree Show 2017

Why do I need to show my own work?

Ravensbourne demands a lot of our students. We expect them to be passionate about their subjects, and to work tirelessly to improve their skills and knowledge. This requires working above and beyond briefs.

We are looking to see that you are capable of the same. Work to include might be:

- work produced during work experience
- personal sketchbooks
- life drawing
- notebooks
- items made for personal use, gifts etc.

How can I show I am looking at practitioners?

We expect our students to be aware of the industries they are entering. This can be shown through:

- visiting exhibitions, trade shows, galleries, museums, shops and recording events
- notebooks of work looked at
- work experience
- photographs of products, work seen

How much work should I bring with me?

We expect students to bring a portfolio of between 15–20 sheets, as well as at least one full sketchbook, ideally a sketchbook relating to each project.

The work should cover the process of design from initial research, development of concepts and resolution of final piece. Only bring what you can carry yourself. You do not have to bring final pieces or large canvas; photographs of these are fine.

What about the presentation?

- the order you show your work in your portfolio is up to you, as a rough rule we would expect life drawing to be kept to the back and design work to be at the front
- some people like to show the work in chronological order, other people prefer to start and end with their best projects and show a mix of different projects in the middle
- don't use plastic sheets. We have great lighting at Ravensbourne and it reflects against the plastic and makes it difficult to see the work
- keep to a uniform format, i.e. all landscape or all portrait
- keep sketchbooks in a separate bag or contained in a portfolio pocket, not loose in the folder
- find out whether you will be in the room for the interview... this is important because if you are not there to explain the work you need to make it easy for interviewers to navigate through your work

Make sure...

- you can say three things about every piece of work that isn't obvious by looking at it
- that you know who you have referenced and why you have done so
- what you would do to improve/expand on work done
- what you think the strengths and weaknesses of each piece are

Finally...



A perfect portfolio is great, but unless you can talk about it successfully and in a way that shows you are connected to what you produce then you will suffer at interview.

Please visit our website to find out more detail information on what we are looking for by course.

www.ravensbourne.ac.uk/studyhere/undergraduate/your-interview-and-portfolio

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