



Foundation Creative Studies

Knitting



Programme: Foundation Creative Studies Pathway – Knitting

About our Foundation programme

This 120-hour programme establishes and develops design and skills in a craft area.

The Foundation programme focusses on establishing a strong foundation in design. Students will explore colour, line, shape and texture, considering how these key aspects of design can be translated into knitted fabrics.

You will develop a simple sketchbook and work through a series of exercises using a range of media before moving on to translating your ideas and concepts into a portfolio of knitted samples. More advanced knitting and knitwear design techniques will be incorporated in your samples with a view to expanding your skills in creating individual, expressive pieces. In the final part of the programme you will make two finished projects, evidencing the skills you have learned, including your supporting work and your samples.

Is this the right level for me?

The Foundation programme is ideal for anyone who wishes to study their craft area in depth, which could be for personal interest or for professional development. You may have attended a number of workshops, or done an introductory programme and are now ready to progress, integrating design alongside good craft skills to develop as a maker. You will be guided to design and make two items based on a design and samples portfolio. One will be a wearable item the other a functional item.

The Foundation programme also offers you the opportunity to submit your work for accreditation for a professional qualification through City & Guilds.

How is the programme delivered?

We want our programmes to be accessible to everyone so our Foundation programme is delivered through distance learning, allowing you to study at home, on holiday, in your lunch break or anywhere! Whether you're an early riser or a night owl (or somewhere in between), study at a time to suit you.

As a student on the Foundation programme you will receive:

Downloadable course material which clearly sets out your tasks and projects for each lesson.

Instructions: Techniques are explained with clear, illustrated instructions that can be printed or viewed on a tablet, mobile or electronic device.

Videos: Key techniques are also accompanied by professionally produced videos so you can follow along and really see the steps in action.

Tutor support: Your tutor is available to support and guide you. Starting with a welcome call you'll have the opportunity to chat with your tutor, discuss any questions you may have and the tutor will outline the programme in more detail.

Student group: If you would like to chat with fellow students, we have our 'coffee shop catch-ups' – a virtual student 'common room' for sharing ideas over a cuppa.

You'll have regular 'check-ins' where you and the tutor can catch up on your progress and discuss any questions you may have. To make sure you're on the right track, you'll also be encouraged to submit your work digitally (with photographs/video) at key points in the programme.

Your work will be evaluated periodically as part of the City & Guilds assessment process and you will have the opportunity for feedback and to produce additional/revised work if required.

Can I get printed versions of the material?

Whilst you will be able to read the handouts and course material online, the course material and handouts are also available in pdf format to enable you to download and print the documents in black and white or full colour (depending on your printer) should you wish.

What will I learn?

The Foundation programme is divided into four modules:

Module One: Establish a foundation in design using the elements of colour, shape, line and texture.

In this module we use a range of media to explore four key aspects of design:

- Colour – you will create colour wheels, learn how to develop pleasing colour palettes through use of hues, shades and tints, complementary and co-ordinating colours, using accent colours and proportion.
- Shape – here you will use a range of papers and fabric to produce 2d and 3d forms using manipulation techniques - folding, twisting, wrapping, cutting
- Line – explore different media to interpret lines and marks – print, pen, ink, blind contour and expressive drawing
- Texture – use fabric and papers to create exciting textures – ripples, tucks, pleats and waves

Alongside your guided exercises, you will also be encouraged to develop an independent sketchbook where you can record ideas and inspiration, keep notes, store photographs, images and items of interest. This process will build into a valuable reference file and resource. You will also research other designers and artists for inspiration and ideas.

Module Two: Apply the design concepts to the craft

In this module the design skills gained in module one are translated into knitted fabrics. An extensive range of techniques will be used to develop your sketches, samples and preliminary designs into knitted samples.

You will explore colourwork, fairisle and intarsia. There will also be the opportunity to use simple methods to dye your own yarn to develop colourways and techniques.

Lace, cables, twisted and travelling stitches may be used to create shape and line. Texture will be developed through creative stitch patterns, bobbles, tucks, pleats, loops and unusual stitches.

You will also work with a range of materials for knitting: Yarns of many kinds, loops, chenilles, marls and self-striping yarns; unusual materials like paper, fabric, wire, plastics, rope, cord or string. Felting may be used to exploit distortion and shape with knitted fabrics.

Modules Three and Four: Conceive and realise in a complete and finished form a personal response to the programme that demonstrates skill and understanding in designing and making a functional item, with supporting working

You will learn how to work with commercial knitting patterns which will lead into simple pattern drafting for knitting.

In the final two modules you will design two simple projects. You will produce supporting workbooks, collecting material, sampling, recording your results, concluding by designing and making two finished projects, a wearable item like a scarf, wrap or shawl and a practical item like a blanket.

What equipment and materials will I need?

To complete the programme you will not need costly equipment or materials, however, you will need access to a computer.

Will I be able to work towards a qualification?

Absolutely! As an affiliate centre of Artybird Carnforth our Foundation programme is accredited by City & Guilds. Students are encouraged to submit their work for assessment. Your work will be evaluated by a professional assessor and on successful assessment you will be awarded the Foundation Creative Studies – Knitting – qualification, awarded by City & Guilds.

Next steps

Once you have completed the Foundation programme you may like to proceed to the more in-depth, two year Intermediate programme or simply continue your own self-directed learning journey.

How much does the programme cost?

The programme fee, including all downloadable materials, technique instructions, access to videos, tutor support and group chat for a period of 12 months is £900. Should you wish to submit your work for assessment there is a fee of £50 to cover registration and certification with City & Guilds.

How do I apply?

Sign-ups for the Foundation programme will open on 20th December 2020 and the first intake will be 10th January 2021. Simply visit the website at www.makingfutures.org to find out more or to enrol and join us in January.

I have a question, who should I contact?

If you have any questions, or you need advice on whether the programme is right for you, please email info@makingfutures.org or give us a call on 0161 718 3818 and we'll do our best to assist.



About your tutor

Debbie Tomkies is a textile designer, hand-dyer, author and tutor. With over 25 years experience, Debbie undertakes pattern design commissions for knitwear and crochet companies and magazines. She has 4 books, over 100 designs and over 150 articles published in major magazines.

An expert hand-dyer, Debbie works with natural and synthetic dyes on both yarn and fabric and has a particular interest in researching dyes in the 1800-1900's.

Debbie is a partner in online retail company, DT Craft & Design. Arising from Debbie's first book, Hand-dyed Yarn Craft Projects, the company was set up in 2006 to sell natural and synthetic dyes, undyed yarns, equipment, kits, books and other products featured in the book.



About City & Guilds

Founded in 1878, The City and Guilds of London Institute was founded by the Corporation of the City of London and 16 livery companies (the Guilds), to protect and promote the standard of technical education.

The Guild President is Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who took over this role from His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, in 2011. City & Guilds' goal is to ensure that, whoever you are, you have the right skills to thrive both now and in the future.

The City & Guilds Group is a global leader in skills development and works with governments, businesses and education centres.

About Making Futures

Making Futures CIC is a social enterprise that aims to build confidence, wellbeing and self-esteem through creative activity. In addition to delivering our City & Guilds programmes Making Futures works with community groups, schools, colleges and third sector organisations to deliver a wide range of workshops, classes, Arts Award and creative skills courses.

As a social enterprise a proportion of our profits are returned to the community to promote the benefits of creative arts in promoting and enhancing wellbeing.

Making Futures also offers business mentoring and start-up advice to new creative enterprises. In particular Debbie works with individuals who face barriers to employment, working with them to set up home-based creative businesses that allow them to achieve their potential whilst having regard to any specific needs they may have.

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