



# Introductory Creative Studies Knitting



## About our introductory programme

This is a 30-hour programme where you will learn the essential knitting skills, produce a series of samples, create two original projects and take your first steps into knitting design.

### Is this the right level for me?

*Absolute beginner?* You'll fit in here perfectly – we cover everything from the first steps.

*Are you a returning knitter?* As you work through the programme you'll refresh your skills before moving on to additional techniques, producing samples and exploring the design elements of the programme.

*More experienced knitter?* The essentials will be familiar so you can focus on developing the broader skills and explore some additional techniques. If you are looking to take your first steps in designing your own projects, perhaps to see if a more in-depth, design-led programme is right for you, the introductory programme offers a great insight whilst at the same time giving you the opportunity to have your work professionally accredited through City & Guilds.



## How is the programme delivered?

We want our programmes to be accessible to everyone so our introductory 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 Introductory 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. Videos are also captioned for accessibility.

**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. 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. Video calls can also be arranged and if you would like to chat with fellow students, we have our virtual student 'common room' for sharing ideas over a cuppa.

## 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 print the documents in black and white or full colour (depending on your printer) should you wish.

## What will I learn?

The introductory programme is divided into four modules.

The first module looks at techniques – you will learn all the basics as well as a range of more challenging skills like simple colourwork and working with knitting patterns.

The second module is an introduction to design – you will start a simple sketchbook and, using a series of exercises, produce a range of samples that will build into a valuable reference file and resource.

The third module is sampling for design. In this module you will be using the technical skills you have gained, your sketchbooks to produce a series of knitted samples.

In module four, you will develop your sampling work further and make a finished project – this may be a wearable item like a scarf or wrap or a practical item like a cushion cover.

### Module 1: Techniques

- Choosing the right materials and tools
- Casting on
- Knit
- Purl
- Simple colourwork stripes
- Increasing
- Decreasing
- Methods for casting off
- Measuring and working with tension (gauge)
- Reading and understanding knitting patterns
- Professional finishing techniques including:
  - Blocking
  - Seaming stitches
  - Weaving in ends
  - Joining yarn

## **Module 2: Introduction to design**

- Explore a range of materials and consider how these influence design choices
- Start a simple sketchbook, gaining an understanding of colour, line and texture and its role in knitwear design
- Colour: Develop your skills in working with colour using a single hue, two and three hues
- Line: Explore how line and mark-making can be translated into design ideas
- Texture: Consider the influence of texture and structure in knitwear patterns and how texture can be translated from other media into knitted fabrics

## **Module 3: Sampling for design**

- Produce a portfolio of three knitted samples using colour, lines and marks, pattern stitches and combinations
- Colour – Make a knitted sample showing the use of a single hue, two and three hues
- Line - Using simple garter and stocking stitch, create a knitted sample that reflects one of your paper samples
- Texture - Make a knitted sample that develops one of your textural pieces, incorporating fancy and textured yarns and pattern stitches

## **Module 4: Finished project**

Produce a portfolio of 3 samples using a combination of simple colour, line and pattern stitches, evidencing the techniques you have learned and forming a starting point for your design journey

Your programme will culminate with making a simple scarf or cushion, drawing on the skills you have acquired

## **What equipment and materials will I need?**

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

## **Can I obtain a qualification?**

Absolutely! As we are an affiliate centre of Artybird Carnforth, our Introductory 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 an Introductory Creative Studies – Knitting qualification which is accredited by City & Guilds.

## **Next steps**

Once you have completed the Introductory programme you may like to proceed to the more in-depth, one year Foundation 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 £350. For students submitting their work for accreditation there is an additional fee of £50 which covers City & Guilds registration and certification.

## **How do I apply?**

You may enrol for the online Introductory programme at any time. Simply visit the website at [www.makingfutures.org](http://www.makingfutures.org), enter a few details and we'll set you up as a student straightaway.

## **I have a question, who should I contact?**

If you have any more questions or you need advice on whether the programme is right for you, please email [info@makingfutures.org](mailto:info@makingfutures.org) or give us a call on 0161 718 3818

## 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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